

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 are amended. No new matter has been added and the claim amendments are supported in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0075]-[0080]. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following remarks below.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over EP 0 754 553. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, EP 0 754 553 does not disclose or suggest an inkjet head having a nozzle line comprising a plurality of nozzle groups... at least a part of each nozzle group scans a same section of the substrate in the first direction and at least one adjacent nozzle group of a nozzle group at the inkjet head scans a same section of a substrate previously scanned by the nozzle group of the inkjet head, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly in independent claims 2-5.

EP 0 754 553 instead discloses in Fig. 24 and at col. 31, lines 36-48 that the nozzles are divided into groups and that 214 nozzles are used during a first scanning operation; 213 nozzles for a second scanning operation; and 213 nozzles for a third scanning operation. As shown in Fig. 24, EP 0 754 553 does not disclose or suggest at least one adjacent nozzle group of a nozzle group at the inkjet head scans a same section of a substrate previously scanned by the nozzle group of the inkjet head.

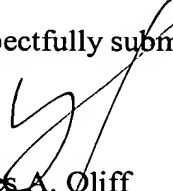
Therefore, independent claims 1-5 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: March 22, 2005

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